



BEYOND THE THEPLA Gujarat's little known cuisines



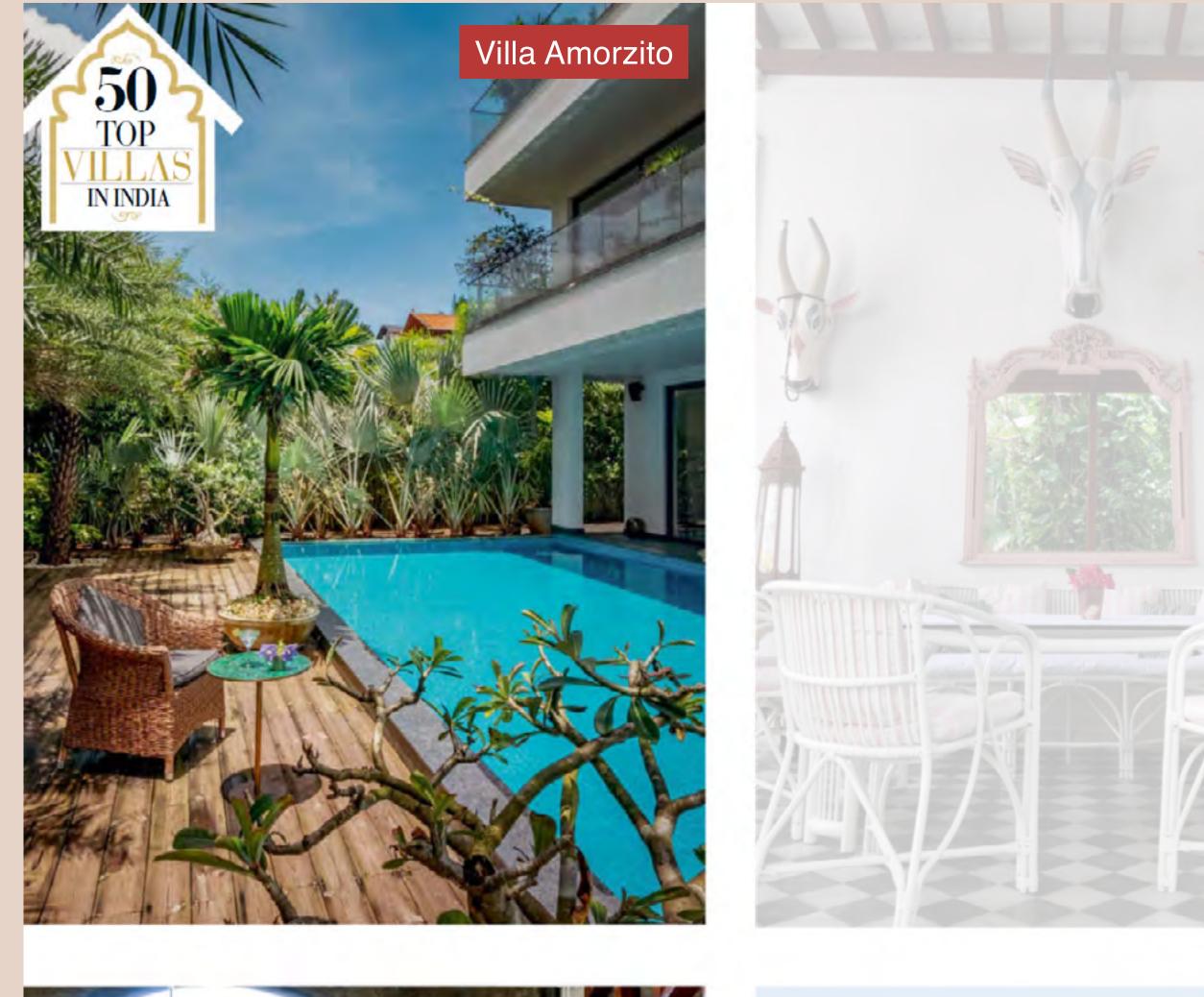
★ One Lohono Stays villas feature In the 50 Top Villas in India!

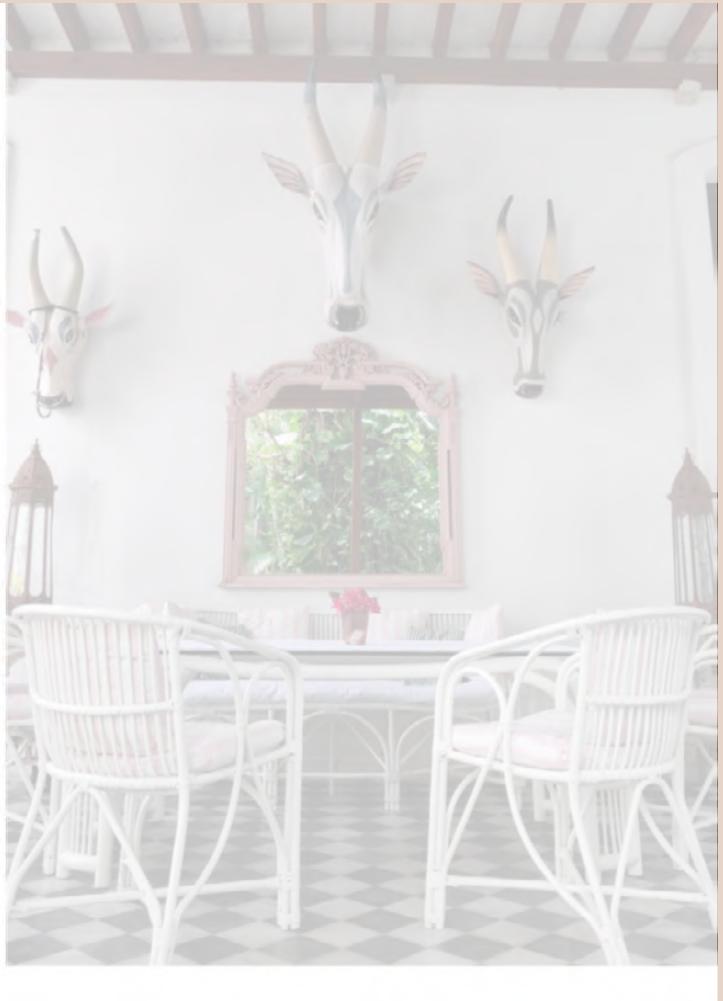


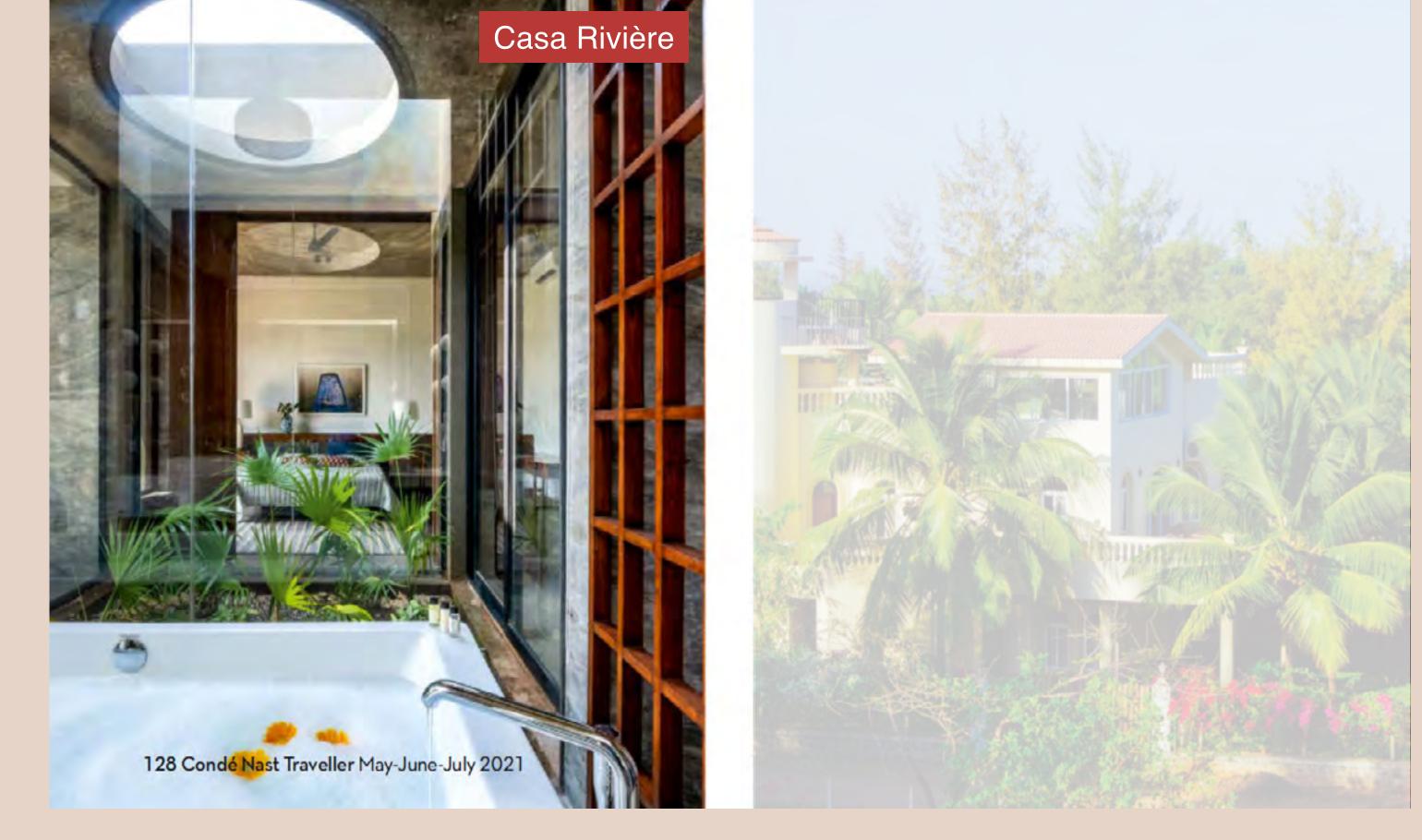
Your new vacation destination is a gorgeous villa in the middle of nowhere, on the edge of cliffs, on the banks of a river, by the beach, in the heart of a cardamom plantation. India's incredibly diverse landscapes are now dotted with architectural masterpieces, quaint cottages, centuries-old lovingly restored bungalows, and state-of-the-art structures. They are private, yet spare no creature comforts, with menus to rival the best 5-star restaurants. Luxurious spaces that spill into emerald green gardens, with mist that winds through verandahs, halls that echo with the sound of waves, and midnight feasts under starlight welcome to the 50 top villas in India, just a click away on MakeMyTrip, Airbnb, Saffronstays, Isprava, Vista Rooms, Booking.com and more.

Compiled by Rituparna Som

number of rooms | 🖌 Pet-friendly | 🕏 Wheelchair-accessible | 💐 Swimming pool | 🔊 WiFi









VILLA AMORZITO, DONA PAULA GOA

A stay at Villa Amorzito is all about perfect sunsets on a terrace surrounded by greens, and lazy afternoons drifting in a pool. This villa in the sleepy village of Dona Paula, on the outskirts of Panaji, has been designed for a large family to stay together across two properties (one with 4 bedrooms and another with 6). The 24-hour concierge service keeps your cocktails going and the casinos outside beckon as the sun sets. Mornings can be spent on Goa's dreamy beaches that are mere minutes away. Or exploring the state's rich history-centuryold forts and churches sitting alongside art galleries and museums—all of which are a short drive away. -RS

Part of a larger villa complex, Constellations Aquila is a modern three-level space that blends into the Khandala landscape with its flat structure and clean straight lines. The décor is minimalist with massive French windows overlooking the pool and surrounding greenery. It's the perfect place for a fam-jam weekend with more than enough space for kids to run around and

La Maison's French menu dent desserts, with souffles ht. The villa is in the heart of puntry and most of the walking oss tea plantations leading to w points. —AR

book via their website; ₹6,600 night

(with prior approval) | 🕭 No | s, but mobile signal is patchy

AESTRO, KASHID ITRA

nute walk from the serene , La Casa Maestro's airy and rs will fill you with positive vibes. Spanish style with arches and ree-level villa has a doubleoom and large bay windows. come with attached terraces over a lush, landscaped garden

0° view of t /intage fur the world a

touch. While alcohol and outside not allowed, the lip-smacking Ma in-house cook Pramila more than for it-ask for her specialty pitla b crab. -PJ

La Casa Maestro, Revdanda-Muru Road, Kashid, Maharashtra; book Saffronstays; price on request 🔒 4 | 🖌 No | 🖧 No | 🖧 Yes | ሕ

bedroom is a separate living space with its own unique features and look. The décor is a mashup of traditional Indian detailing inspired by the royals, antique touches and influences from Bali. Relaxation is the main aim, with yoga, massage therapies, board games and table tennis on offer. Otherwise, a walk through the garden landscaped with ponds, fountains and statues offers rejuvenation. There's a choice between two chefs preparing meals with locally sourced ingredients or cooking yourself. Ishavilas is also close enough to the major attractions in North Goa for those seeking outside experiences. - Joanna Lobo ishavilas.com; book via their website; price on request

17 (In 2021, only 4 bedrooms and the big swimming pool is open for up to 12 guests) | 🖬 Yes | 🕭 No | 💐 Yes | 🔊 Yes

VILLA ALENTEHO, ASSAGAO GOA

A powder-pink villa in the heart of Assagao, Goa, offers families a chance to enjoy life in the buzzing tourist hub. The design aesthetic relies on vintage curios, graphic tiles, botanical prints and pastel tones. The villa has a pool with an attached shaded gazebo, and al-fresco dining. Guests can cook their own food, or request for a chef. The major LH tourist hotspots in north Goa-restaurants, gran beaches and towns—are a short drive away. bagh t thre A concierge service can arrange curated attar trips, and experiences. Beyond the pool, ce is whic guests can unwind by the terrace bar with a ell-cu sundowner and local seafood. -JL inte Located just 100m from Lake Naukuchiatal, d themselves nfire. The villa's La Belle Vie offers an unbeatable vantage point as well as easy access to outdoor stomise meals activities like boating, paragliding and treks. order your own aretakers to The villa is split in two levels and the interiors RG are beautifully done up by its owner who Trip; <35,000 has upcycled many elements and added sustainable value to every space. A threeman team looks after all your needs and A Yes cooks delicious meals. - Shikha Tripathi W-2/203, Thapiliya Mehra Gaon, Naukuchiatal, Uttarakhand; book via Airbnb; olim, Goa, ₹20,000 for the entire villa erty offering 🏫 3 | 😭 No | 🕹 No | 💐 No | 🔊 Yes vorld. Each



play. The villa is fully serviced and comes



and Tiger as is the essentials fudge. -- I Bungalow Bungalow book via \$ ft 5 | ht 影 Yes |

LA MAIS Benoit Siz the 1970s romanceacre estal an advent offers a cl the cheer original co to a time

Clockw

ISHAVILAS, SIOLIM GOA

Tucked away in a corner of Siolim, Goa, Ishavilas is a sprawling property offering an escape from the outside world. Each bedroom is a separate living space with its own unique features and look. The décor is a mashup of traditional Indian detailing inspired by the royals, antique touches and influences from Bali. Relaxation is the main aim, with yoga, massage therapies, board games and table tennis on offer. Otherwise, a walk through the garden landscaped with ponds, fountains and statues offers rejuvenation. There's a choice between two chefs preparing meals with locally sourced ingredients or cooking yourself. Ishavilas is also close enough to the major attractions in North Goa for those seeking outside

experiences. -- Joanna Lobo

s of Maison Twenty Six, Puducherry; Casa Riviere in Karjat; (ashid

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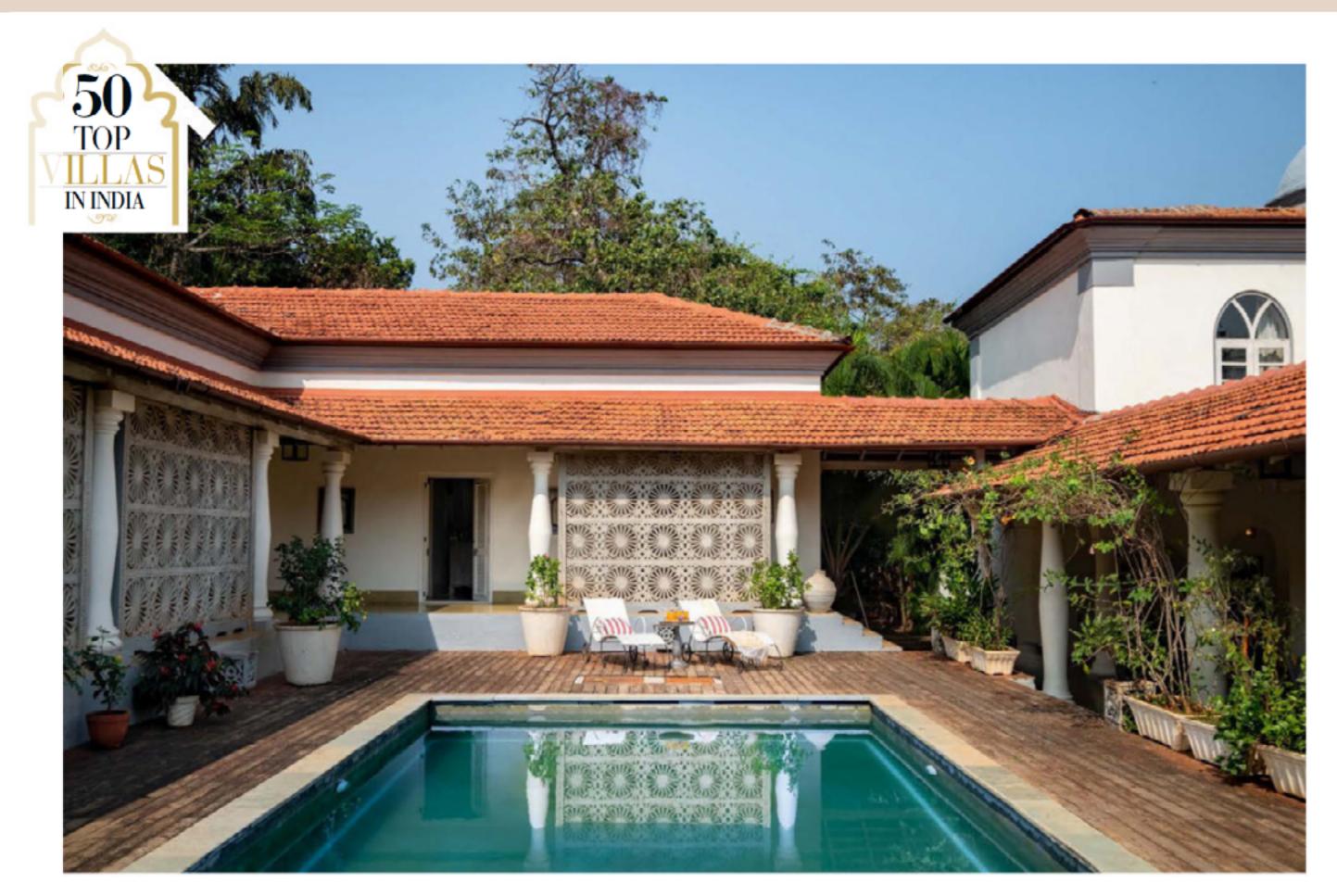




VILLA BEIRA MAR, ALIBAUG MAHARASHTRA

Located on the Kihim beach front, Villa Beira Mar is a spot to slow down and enjoy the good life. Spread across an acre, this villa includes numerous terraces and bedrooms that open towards the sea. The large living area with its tasteful cane furniture is great for reading, working or entertaining guests. Balconies with plantation chairs overlook gardens dotted with frangipani trees. The pool is one of the property's highlights offering views of the ocean and an adjoining gazebo is ideal for a post-swim drink or laidback meal. The resident cook can whip up local specialities as well as Continental and Asian dishes. —*Anubhuti Krishna*





The pool at Villa Branco, Goa is located in a rectangular courtyards with beautifully designed screens leading inside the house



VILLA BRANCO, VAGATOR GOA

seamlessly merge / design elements. The abode has a choice of six es. "Bridge to heaven" is -a 70sqm penthouse suite ace. The restaurant fronted thel Christmann is its star even-course tasting menu fine traditions of French valking distance from the and the perfect hub from /hite Town's vibrant F&B a pool and hot tub, a private entertainment lounge and a wet bar. The poolside turns

Bathed in shades of white, Villa Branco is done up to reflect an European and Indian regal aesthetic, with arched doorways, louvered doors, carved screens, and bespoke flooring. The 9,000-sqft structure has bedrooms with walk-in closets, a study, private pool and gazebo to lounge in as well as a huge well-tended garden. Guests can use the fully stocked kitchen or request for a chef. Its location in Vagator makes it easily accessible to north Goa's tourist hotspots. A concierge team can guide with excursions for those seeking to explore the state. —JL

LA VILLA PUDUCHERRY

Once known as Notre Dame de la Garde, this 19th-century bungalow has been transformed by architect duo Tina Trigala and Yves Lesprit with an adaptive reuseof-heritage approach. The original walls com; book via their website 9,000 per room | 🔥 Yes | 🏯 Yes | 🔊 Yes

S BY VESCAPES,

Im trees, this luxe villa 00sqft and overlooks a

swathe of paddy fields. Sprawling suites with private decks, unique bathrooms and views of the garden, pool and the neighbouring village make it the perfect place to unwind with your gang. Three in-house chefs and a bartender are on hand to create an à la carte wining and dining experience. The villa has into a live music zone at night, with crafted cocktails, and candlelight barbecues. —JL vescapes.com; book via their website. MakeMyTrip and Booking.com; price on request for 5 | for No | & Yes | for Yes

MAISON TWENTY SIX PUDUCHERRY

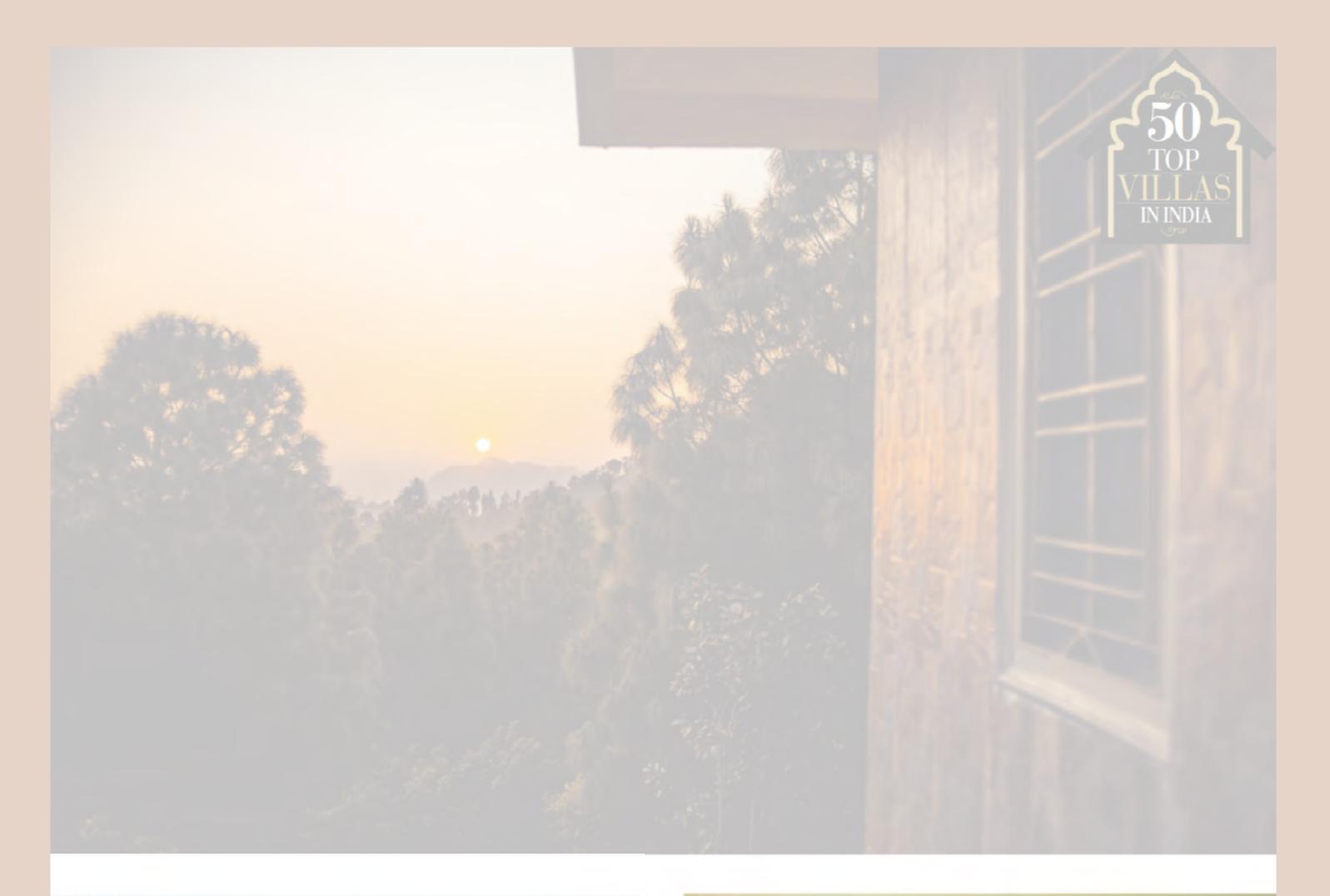
This 120-year-old garden house has won the prestigious Viellies Maisons Françaises (VMF) award for French architectural heritage and is the town's first private luxury villa. The Belgian tiles imported from Vietnam and the Indo-Chine bedroom embellished with shades of Shanghai red reveal the story of the original owner, a Franco-Tamil merchant who made his fortune in Vietnam. Pondicherry's vibrant F&B scene and culinary traditions (including Tamil Creole) come calling to the villa, courtesy the on-site chefs, while their list of activities includes everything from diving to surfing. – AR luxunlock.com; book via their website;

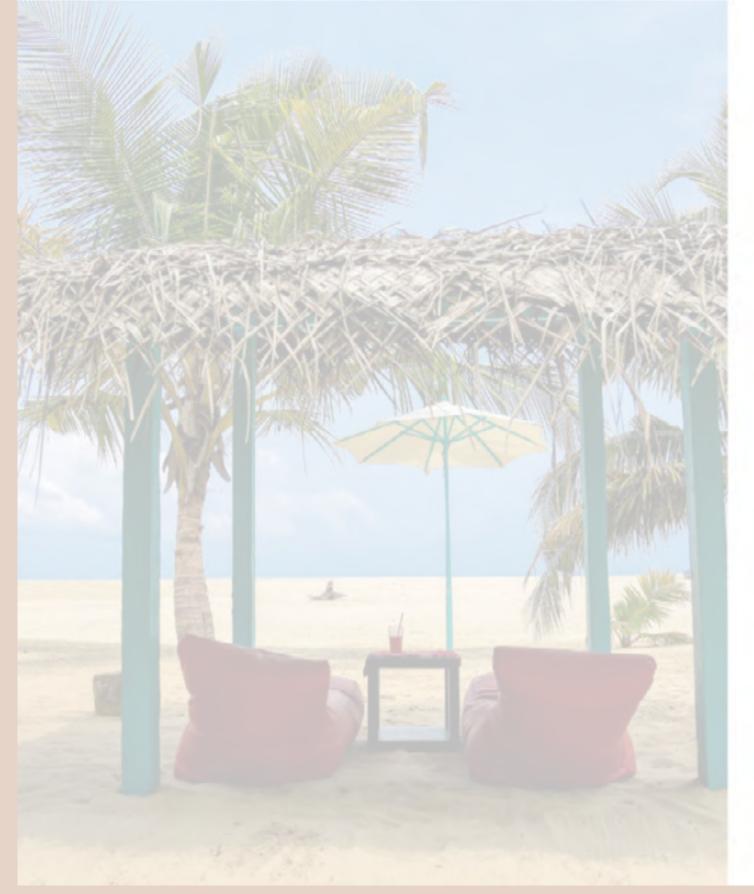
₹35,000 for the entire villa

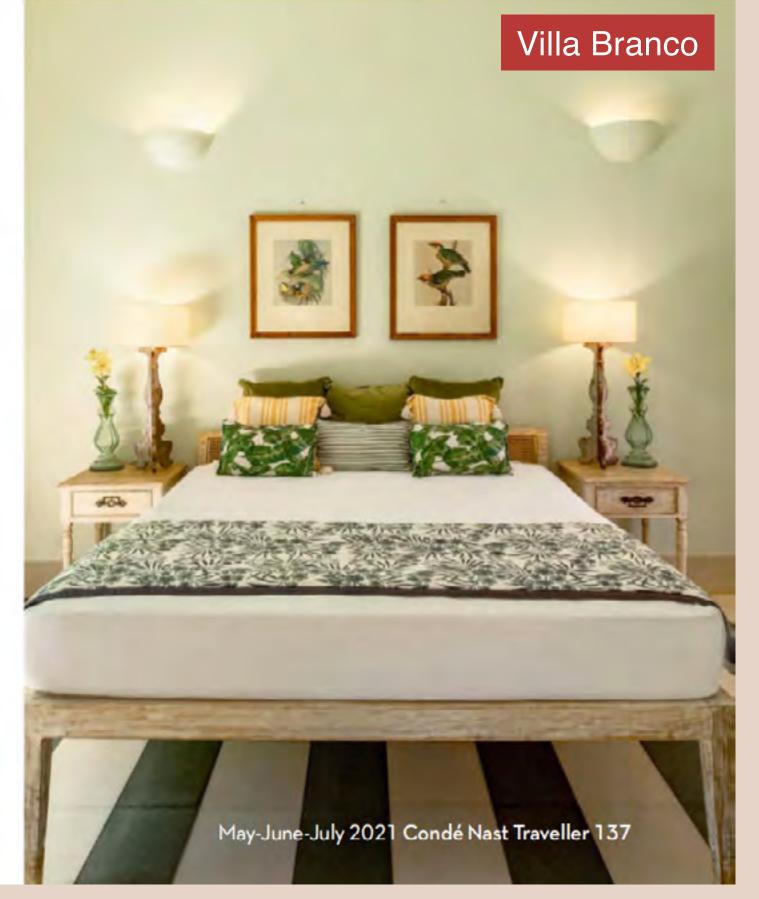
🏚 4 | 🖌 Yes | 🗄 No | 🕌 No | ລີ Yes

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GREYSTONE MANOR, ALIBAUG

MAHARASHTRA

Set amidst lush greenery with minimalist glass and stone exteriors, Greystone Manor exudes a cool California vibe. The chic midcentury modern villa is an intimate getaway that can easily double up a work-cation spot. Centred around a private swimming pool, the villa is dotted with vintage furniture, family heirlooms, and striking artwork, but its most stunning space remains the courtyard with tall columns and fountains. The manor offers excellent vegetarian home-cooked meals cooked by the resident chef and local seafood can be easily ordered in. An outdoor bar and seating area can be the perfect setting for a cocktail evening with the gang. -AK

VILLA SHASHWAT, ALIBAUG MAHARASHTRA

A home of understated elegance, Villa Shashwat stands amid sprawling gardens of bamboo, flower and fruit trees. Designed on the lines of English country homes, the villa uses stone flooring and red brick walls to create colour contrasts and channel a warm vibe. Living and dining spaces at the villa stand out for their eclectic decor elements and the clever layout ensures that the outdoors seamlessly blends with living spaces. Open air showers, swings in shady verandahs, and a pool hidden amid trees with a gorgeous gazebo make Villa Shashwat the perfect tropical refuge. The property comes with a resident cook and offers gourmet vegetarian meals. in terms of onsite entertainment, there are ample indoor and outdoor games including mini golf, a pool table, a netted cricket pitch and basket ball court. -AK

> many reasons to visit. And why stay in a hotel when you can make this boutique,



HILL BY VISTA ROOMS, MASHOBRA HIMACHAL PRADESH

This spacious villa is set amidst apple, pear and cherry orchards and a cedar forest and offers unrestricted views of Himalayan peaks. The villa is constructed of stone, wood and mud with numerous verandahs offering perfect views. There are modern amenities including a dedicated TV room and a great collection of DVDs. A cosy sunroom with a well-stocked library in the middle of an orchard offers a great spot to get away from it all. The best thing to do at Violet Hill is slow down, but if you are so inclined, there are also lovely treks, the most stunning one to the Shali Temple on Shali Peak. —*RSM*

Mashobra, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; book via Vista Rooms; ₹26,000 for the entire villa ↑ 3 | ↑ No | ♦ No | ♀ Yes | ↑ Yes, subject to availability

CASA RIVIERE, KARJAT MAHARASHTRA

With large light-filled rooms looking out at the Matheran hills and wide stretches of green around the house, Casa Riviere feels like a tonic for the spirit. While the interiors are beautiful, it's the outdoors that keeps drawing you-the pool, walking and jogging tracks, horse riding, tennis and badminton courts, and the viewing deck over the lakefor a cuppa at sundown or yoga at the crack of dawn. Casa Riviere is rejuvenating and life-affirming, and the only danger is that you might never want to leave. -RS a jogging track through the hills, a little dairy and poultry farm, an Ayurvedic spa, a swimming pool and gazebo and large lawn-Springhills Villa & Ayurvedic Spa spoils you for choice. Sumptuous meals are whipped up by the three in-house chefs. Expect everything from Northeastern to Continental and local Kerala-style dishes. Fort Kochi with its art galleries and restaurants is a short drive away. -RS Chalakudi, Vellikulangara Road, Mechira, Cochin, Kerala; book via Vista Rooms and Booking.com; ₹20,000 for the entire villa entire villa 🏚 2 | 🖬 Yes | 🗄 No | 💐 Yes | 🗟 Yes

NORMANDY HOUSE, DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND

Lush litchi orchards, sprawling gardens and a French chateau-style property that dates back to the 1800s-the colonial-style Normandy House, located on the outskirts of Dehradun, Uttarakhand, offers a memorable getaway steeped in history. The villa's décor is a blend of French and British design elements with wooden accents, vintage furniture, mosaic tiles, clawfoot bathtubs, armoires and four-poster beds. Make the most of the four sprawling gardens, each with a different French name, where you can take a leisurely stroll and spot plenty of butterflies. A club house located on the grounds ensures the kids are occupied with a variety of indoor games. The staff here ensures the privacy of all guests and are always at hand for your needs. They can set up a barbecue or bonfire for chilly evenings,



and dishes r preferences.

hing or simply enjoying the estate's nature trails point from where you nsets. —AD I Road, Dehradun, ia Vista Rooms, .com; ₹41,000 for

s | 🗟 No | 🄊 Yes

all-suite villa your base. Commanding surreal views of the mighty Kanchenjunga, thanks to its location atop a quiet hill in the city of Gangtok, Sikkim, this property's biggest draw is its terrace garden. Rustic Italian design blends with contemporary accentsthink, local wooden flooring, chic country pieces, cosy throws, exposed brick walls, and other elements that are a nod to Sikkimese architecture. When you're not lazing around in one of the many nooks and corners, enjoy the crisp mountain air by heading out for a hike. Or pick one of the biking trails. There may not be a pool here for you to soak in but there are majestic mountain peaks that you can view right from your backyard. The villa can help organise adventure treks, mountain biking experiences, day trips to nearby villages or visits to the local monasteries. - AD

sikkimvillatosca.com; book via their website and Booking.com; ₹8,800 per room and ₹27,100 for two bedrooms **1** 5 | **1** No | **3** No | **3** Yes

G MAHARASHTRA

terms of its ethos and he idea was to create a ith a community focus. off by planting over 300 t of land. This has, over place its current green he house was built with

yellow stone from the area and plenty of local help and inputs. Besides the gorgeous infinity pool, it's the shelves heaving with books that grab your attention reflecting a range of interests and built over years of collecting. A cheerfully blue tiled kitchen invites guests to cook their own meals. There are frogs and birds for company as well as Skylar, the young dog who is a complete treat to be around. —*RS Bhonang Village, Alibaug, Maharashtra; book via Airbnb; ₹24,500 for the entire villa*

Clockwise from top: the pool at Hampton's Twilight in Goa; tea with a view at Teanest, Coonoor; the elegant four-poster beds at Bougainvilla, Mumbai

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